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PAGE 01

NG 57682

TOR:151741Z APR 76

NY
Switzerland

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2443

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S SPEECH OF APRIL 8 ON LOS

REF: STATE 85109

1. TODAY I CALLED ON AMBASSADOR EMANUEL DIEZ, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC LAW OF THE FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, DELIVERED THE SECRETARY'S LAW OF THE SEA ADDRESS, AND MADE SUBSTANTIVE POINTS AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL.
2. DIEZ INDICATED SWITZERLAND'S POSITION IS NECESSARILY INFLUENCED BY THE FACT IT IS A LANDLOCKED COUNTRY. THE SWISS TAKE A FAR MORE BALANCED VIEW, DIEZ SAID, THAN MOST OTHER LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES SEEM TO BECAUSE SWITZERLAND HAS MULTIPLE AND VARIOUS AVENUES OF ACCESS TO THE SEA AND DOES NOT FEEL THREATENED OR DEPENDENT ON THE POLICIES OF A SINGLE NEIGHBOR. MOREOVER, SWITZERLAND'S NEIGHBORS ARE ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN ACCESS TO SWITZERLAND'S CENTRAL AVENUES OF COMMUNICATION, AND THIS IS A BALANCING ELEMENT. SWITZERLAND'S DESIRE IS TO SEE MODERATE AND REASONABLE SOLUTIONS EMERGE FROM THE LOS CONFERENCE.
3. ON THE TERRITORIAL SEA AND ECONOMIC ZONE, DIEZ SAID, SWITZERLAND HAS HISTORICALLY FAVORED FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION (NOTWITHSTANDING ITS LANDLOCKED POSITION). LIKE THE UNITED STATES, SWITZERLAND RECOGNIZES THAT THE 12 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AND THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE ARE THE EMERGING REALITY.
4. REGARDING DISPUTES SETTLEMENT, DIEZ POINTED OUT THAT SWITZERLAND'S POSITION IS SOMEWHAT IN ADVANCE OF AMERICA'S ON THE QUESTION OF BINDING MECHANISMS - AS EVIDENCED IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF THE CSCE AND AMBASSADOR BINDSCHEDLER'S PROPOSALS MADE AT HELSINKI.
5. REGARDING A DEEP SEABED REGIME, DIEZ WAS MOST UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CONCERN THAT NO COUNTRY AND NO COUNTRY'S FIRMS BE DENIED ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES OF THE DEEP SEABED.

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State Dept. review completed

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ACTION #			3		6	

T 843108

EIA839

PAGE 02-02

NC 57682

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6. DIEZ ASSURED ME OF THE SWISS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL, ITS APPRECIATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED, AND ITS SHARED CONCERN THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO REACH A BINDING UNDERSTANDING THIS YEAR NOT BE MISSED. HE PROMISED TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE SWISS DELEGATION IN NEW YORK AND IS EXPECTING AN INTERIM REPORT FROM IT IN THE NEAREST FUTURE. DAVIS

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